

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP  
SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Appln. No. 10/523,712

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January 24, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace any prior version or listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-30 (canceled).

31 (new). An elastic fabric comprising:

an elastic yarn interlaced in one of the warp and weft directions, said elastic yarn having a breaking elongation of greater than 60%, a rate of elastic recovery after 15% elongation of more than 90%, the elastic fabric having a stress at 10% elongation greater than 150 N/5 cm and less than 600 N/5 cm oriented in a direction parallel to said elastic yarn, and a rate of hysteresis loss between about 20% and about 45%.

32 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, further having a bulk density greater than 17,000 dtex/cm.

33 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, wherein the stress at 10% elongation in a direction oriented 45 degrees to said elastic yarn is between 5% and 20% of the stress at 10% elongation in said direction oriented parallel to said elastic yarn.

34 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, having a covering rate greater than 30%.

35 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, wherein said fabric is woven and has a rate of intersection less than 0.5.

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36 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 35, wherein the product of the rate of intersection and the covering rate is greater than 0.1.

37 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, wherein said fabric is woven and the bulk density of said elastic yarn is between 0.5 and 3 times the bulk density of a yarn that is orthogonal to said elastic yarn.

38 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, wherein said fabric is weft knitted using elastic and inelastic yarns, said fabric comprising a plurality of courses and wales, a plurality of said elastic yarns extending across a plurality of wales of at least one course, and stress in said fabric at 10% elongation in the direction of said wales being greater than 25 N/5 cm.

39 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 38, wherein said elastic yarns have an average diameter greater than 1.5 times the average diameter of said inelastic yarns.

40 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 38, comprising first and second of said inelastic yarns, said first inelastic yarn forming a base fabric, said second inelastic yarn being interknitted using a float stitch to form needle loops over a plurality of said courses, said second inelastic yarn forming sinker loops extending over a plurality of said wales.

41 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, wherein said elastic fabric is formed as a three-dimensional construction comprising a face fabric formed from face yarns and a back fabric formed from back yarns, said back yarns comprising said elastic yarn.

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42 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 41, further comprising connecting yarns connecting said face fabric and said back fabric to one another, said connecting yarns not forming either said face fabric or said back fabric.

43 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 42, further comprising an interspace stratum having a thickness greater than 0.3 mm formed between said face fabric and said back fabric.

44 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 42, said back fabric comprising said elastic yarns, and said face fabric comprising a knitted net fabric having openings with an area greater than 1 sq mm.

45 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 44, further comprising a plurality of chain stitch openings formed by said face yarns, said chain stitch openings extending across a plurality of said wales, said chain stitch openings being arranged adjacent to one another and sharing a common face yarn forming said chain stitch openings.

46 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 45, wherein said back fabric comprises a chain stitch extending lengthwise along the knitting direction of said fabric and an inserted back yarn connecting said chain stitch to said chain stitch openings.

47 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 42, wherein said connecting yarn comprises an elastic yarn.

48 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, wherein said elastic yarn is thermally adhered to other yarns comprising said fabric.

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49 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, wherein said yarns comprising said fabric have tensile preloads oriented both lengthwise and widthwise of said fabric, said tensile preloads being different from one another over different parts of said fabric.

50 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, further comprising first and second yarns interlaced within said fabric, said first and second yarns being oriented orthogonal to one another and having different tensile strengths from one another.

51 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 50, wherein one of said yarns comprises a low stretch yarn and the other comprises a high stretch yarn, said yarns being interlaced within said fabric in a balanced design throughout said fabric with respect to fabric pattern and density of yarns.

52 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, further comprising the surface of said fabric having a construction thereon selected from the group consisting of cut piles, loop piles and tufts formed from yarns having the same characteristics of dying properties, fineness, degree of twist and material properties.

53 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, having an average coefficient of friction greater than 0.26 achieved by incorporating non-slip yarns over the surface of said fabric, said non-slip yarns having a fineness less than 30 dtex, one said non-slip yarns being exposed to float over the surface at least every square mm.

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54 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 53, wherein said non-slip yarns form a nap on the surface of said fabric.

55 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 53, wherein said non-slip yarns form piles on the surface of said fabric.

56 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 53, wherein said non-slip yarns comprise cord yarn having fineness less than 30 dtex and a napped surface, said cord yarn being formed from material selected from the group consisting of natural leather, synthetic leather, artificial leather, and non-woven fabric.

57 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 53, wherein said non-slip yarns comprise yarns selected from the group consisting of spun yarn, napped multifilament yarn having float tufts, ring yarn having a ring-like bumpy surface formed by secondary yarns surrounding a core yarn, slub yarn having a slub-like bumpy surface formed by secondary yarns surrounding a core yarn, knap yarn having a knap-like bumpy surface formed by secondary yarns surrounding a core yarn, sheathed core yarns having a bumpy surface formed by secondary yarns surrounding a core yarn, and interlaced yarn comprising multifilaments, said interlace yarns having a bumpy surface formed by overfeeding said multifilaments.

58 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 53, wherein said non-slip yarns comprise chenille yarns formed by fixing decorative yarn to a core yarn.

59 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 53, wherein said non-slip yarns comprise flocked yarn formed by electrostatically fixing fiber fragments to a core yarn.

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60 (new). An elastic fabric according to Claim 31, formed on a frame having two parts positioned in spaced relation to one another, said fabric being hung between said frame parts by fixing opposite edges of said fabric to each of said frame parts.